

Our Neighborhood Homework House News

P.O. Box 0993 * Azusa, CA 91702 *
www.neighborhoodhomeworkhouse.org

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Homework House Branching Out Lee School Neighborhood

The Homework House is ready to break new ground! After 6 years of service in the Ninth Street neighborhood, an additional location in another neighborhood of Azusa is in the planning stages. After researching the neighborhood and communicating with key neighborhood members and city officials it was clear that the Lee School neighborhood was the place to be. Residents of the Lee School Neighborhood have been asking for more educational support for their children and have wanted a Homework House in their neighborhood for the past three years. Despite the struggling economy the Homework House re-



cently had a very successful fundraiser that raised some of the much needed funds for the new sight. "It feels like the right time, and the right direction" says Program Director, Abigail Gaines.

The mission statement of the Homework House has remained the same: to empower at-risk children to fulfill their fullest potential academically, socially, and spiritually. The long-term goal of the Homework House is to branch out into more Azusa neighborhoods requesting Homework Houses as resources

become available. "We have a good model of what works, but we will adjust it to the needs of the neighborhood," Abigail explains. The goal is to establish relationships in the new location, that will expose the most pressing needs and allow the Homework House model to adapt to the community; initiating revitalization.

The Ninth Street Homework House started by meeting in the apartments of the families whose kids they were assisting. It quickly gained popularity in the neighborhood, which jumped on the opportunity to give their kids this kind of support. All stake-

holders of the Azusa community are rallying behind the new Homework House. The neighborhood is a low socioeconomic urban community, and the residents are predominately Spanish speaking. There are hundreds of children living in the surrounding blocks that would benefit from the Homework House.

The Homework House is excited about this opportunity to further their services and expand their resources to another neighborhood of Azusa.



Our In-House Spotlight: Savannah Martin

Savannah is a sophomore at Azusa High School. She enjoys running, playing football, and watching movies. She hopes to become a Kindergarten teacher because she loves children

and she often takes care of her nephews and niece-- an opportunity which has added to her affection toward kids. Over the summer, Savannah worked for the Homework House where she supervised a group of children between the

ages of five and eight for the Summer Splash program. She helped plan activities for the kids. Savannah also learned the art of patience, confidence, and alertness from the children. Savannah was awarded \$300 for her essay about her life and the enjoyment she finds at the Homework House. With this money, she plans to keep \$50 for herself to buy Hot Cheetos: the chips she is "hooked on," shoes and clothes. Thirty of the three hundred will be tithed and the rest of the money will be given to her mom to help pay the bills and the rent.

Read her essay on the next page



Savannah (middle) with kids on a Homework House field trip.

In November 2002, Savannah Paige Martin was invited to write an essay for the Soroptimist Club Scholarship Foundation. Barbara Dickerson, a Soroptimist and a Homework House vol-

unteer, where Savannah is tutored Mondays and Wednesdays, was seeking "bright, shining stars." In February, she discovered that star in Savannah!

After writing an essay, Savannah was very happy to hear that she had won the contest. There were only three winners in the essay contest, one for a high school student, one for a college student, and one adult winner. When asked her first reaction to finding out that she had won, she said that she was both happy and nervous. She was also somewhat upset that her friend, who had also participated, had not won.

Spring Fundraiser: Branching Out

On Friday, March 28th, the Homework House held its 2nd annual spring fundraiser at the cute and cozy Smart City Grinds Cyber Café, located on Alosta Avenue in Azusa. Tickets to the event cost \$15, and an auction of donated items brought in additional money. (A generous donor agreed to match the total amount raised at the auction, and that contributed greatly to the evening's success). Nearly 150 people came to support the event, where they enjoyed a dessert buffet while they were entertained by some of the Homework House's participants. The children displayed their talents by singing, playing instruments, and giving speeches. The fundraiser, coordinated by a team of volunteers from Azusa Pacific University, was a huge achievement. The money raised from this event will go towards furthering the Homework House's usefulness to the community, specifically aiding the development of the new Homework House location opening in Lee School Neighborhood.



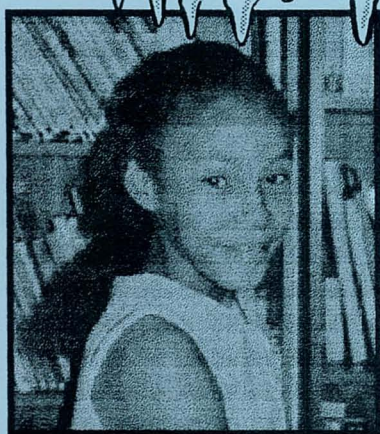
Prayer Requests

- ◆ Please pray for us as we plan another location in the Lee School neighborhood.
- ◆ Please pray for our upcoming summer program. This year we will be having Summer Splash at two sites.
- ◆ Pray for our ongoing search for funding and materials.

Winter



Winter 2002 provided memories that we all will never forget! Our annual Pajama Christmas party was a hit! What a magical night it was for the children of the Neighborhood Homework House, that Wednesday, December 18th., One highlight was when the Azusa Fire and Police Departments showed up with a fire engine packed with gifts. Santa came too! The kids stood outside in shock as the lights from the engine blared and the men in uniforms passed out their gifts. The exuberant joy of the whole neighborhood was pure delight to witness. We had a wonderful party for our younger kids (K-4) that evening and another great party the next evening for our older children (5th - 10th). Refreshments were a huge hit with hot chocolate and marshmallows along with an array of beautiful, homemade cookies donated by a local Azusa neighborhood, Mountain Cove. Thank you very much to everyone who donated Christmas presents for the children. It was a delight to see them with so much joy on their faces as they unwrapped all of their gifts. Jorge, a second grader, raised his hand before we tore into the gifts and asked if we could first pray for all the people who gave them. Your kindness was greatly appreciated by all.



April Montenegro at a Monday session of Homework House

You Can Benefit Azusa's Most Precious Resource

just by signing up at:

WWW.ESCRIP.COM

Neighborhood Homework House

ID# 151237974

It's easy, it's free, it's secure, it works!

Here's how:

- Register any one or all of your credit cards, debit cards and Grocery Club cards.
- Participating merchants will make contributions to Our neighborhood Homework House based on purchases made by you. All you do is use the cards you registered!
- Your purchase amounts are tracked and available online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning on behalf of the Homework House.

Participating Merchants include: Vons, Pavilions, Safeway, Chevron, Claim Jumper, Eddie Bauer, Budget Car Rentals, Office Max, Sharper Image, Spiegel, Payless, ShoeSource, Carl's Jr., American Airlines, Big 5 sporting Goods, Nevada Bob's Golf, and hundreds more.

Check www.eScrip.com for complete, updated list for your area.

Sign-up is easy:

1. To register, visit **www.eScrip.com**
2. Click on **Sign-up** and type in **Neighborhood Homework House** or our **ID#151237974**. If you prefer, call the Homework House to request a mail-in application form: (626) 812-0209.
3. This is a nationwide program. Encourage Friends and family to sign up too!!
4. Already enrolled in eScrip? Add Neighborhood Homework House to your list. You can designate up to 3 organizations for contribu-

ESL

Every Wednesday and Friday from 11:00-12:00 the Homework House offers ESL classes for stay-at-home parents.

\$\$Money Scope\$\$

The city has granted the Homework House an additional \$5,000 to hold the Summer Splash program in the Lee School neighborhood. This will go towards staff and program expenses. Thank you to all who participated in our spring fundraiser, *Branching Out*. It was a tremendous success! The Homework House raised over \$10,000 towards the new location and program expenses for the Ninth Street location. We are still far from our goal, however. Our goal is to have enough funding to hire a full-time project coordinator. The hurting economy has limited some of our possibilities for funding. Please consider how you would be able to partner with us!

Make a lasting impression on the future of our kids

Contact Us:

Our Neighborhood Homework House

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Ways You Can Partner With Our Neighborhood Homework House!

- * Be a regular financial and prayer partner
- * Participate in Escript program www.escrip.com; I.D. 151237974
- * Volunteer expertise in education, accounting, printing, computers, etc.
- * Sponsor a child for Summer Splash
- * Be a corporate sponsor for Summer Splash
- * Donate merchandise
- * Participate in Fundraising Events
- * Be a tutor!!

***All Donations Are*
Tax Deductible**



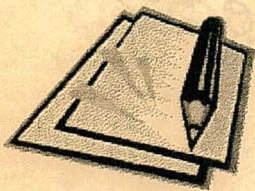
Our Neighborhood
Homework House

P.O. Box 0993

Azusa, CA 91702

Benefiting Azusa's most precious resource





Savannah's Essay

Soroptimist Writing Contest Winner!

Hi, my name is Savannah Martin. I am 16 years old. I go to school at Azusa High School. I live in an apartment with four other people, my mom, niece, and two nephews. I live right by the Homework House. I have a lot of experience working with small children because I take care of my nephews and my niece. I love to work with kids.

My neighborhood is chalk full of mothers and children, mostly one sided families. By this I mean that usually there is just a mother and children or a father and children. In my neighborhood there are many Latino families and a few African Americans and almost no White families. The neighborhood I live in is loud and busy. There is a lot of movement. There are kids always running around and having fun and enjoying life. On the other hand there are also gang members and racist people. It's not always safe to walk on the streets alone and sometimes not even in groups. Some people get very angry when you are walking down the street and not of the same race. But I like where I live because it is close to a lot of places like stores and schools.

The Homework House is located on Ninth Street in Azusa. The Homework House is in apartment number three, the last building on your left. The Homework House was started to bring kids together to help become the way God intended, that is to be the very best they could be. The Homework House was set up to help students get a better perspective on life and to encourage them to go farther than they ever expected. Also there is a desire to give the kids a chance at a better education than some of their parents and to ensure them a better life. It was started by Kerry Freeman. She started out small and it became something big and spectacular. The Homework House volunteers love children and put their heart and soul into all of their work. Tutors from different universities come to help and be with the children. Also, on Thursdays the Homework House gives bread to the families of my neighborhood who are in need.

I love being a part of the Homework House. I have invited many friends to be participants of the Homework House also. But many have turned me down with some not so good reasons. I talk about the Homework House a lot at school. My teachers ask me on Mondays and Wednesdays why I am not doing my homework before class ends. My excuse is, "I have Homework House after school and I am doing my homework there and I love it there." It's great to meet new people. At the Homework House there are tutors that help you with your homework. The people there are very nice and sincere because they not only check on your academic progress but keep in touch with you to see how you are doing at home as well. Further, they always ask if you have a prayer request. They love you and are very devoted to you and God!!!! They have great personalities and they are always there when you need them. The Homework House is very important and special to our community because it brings a sense of warmth and caring to everyone in the community regardless of race. It also gives a place for people to get to know God better. It keeps youth off the streets and keeps them from getting into gangs. It is a place where you know that you are safe. Kids love coming to the Homework House. It's a great experience for them.

Over the summer, unlike during the school year, I got the opportunity to work with the Homework House. I was able to be responsible for children from age five to eight years old. The kids were loving and respectful because of the work of the older tutors during the school year. The kids I worked with were very intelligent. I found that all of the kids have different personalities and different perspectives on life. But working with them allowed me to see their strengths and weaknesses. The children I worked with had bright attitudes and enjoyed everything we did. This was a great opportunity to have because I am interested in teaching professionally someday. I love children and I love being around them. I love the Homework House!!!!

What is your favorite subject?

Reading - Jerid



Science - Nicolas



Reading - Brenden



P.E. - Michelle



What do you like about Homework House?

Get better grades.
-Rey



The tutors!
- Cassandra



They help us with our homework and show us in a creative way.
- Mandie



What do you want to be when you grow up?

Firefighter - Edward



Artist - Alan



Teacher and Missionary
-Nicole

